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JAN 10 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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JAN - 7 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Bureau / OfficeGregory L. Archuleta
1250 Golden Circle 510
Golden, CO 80401

December 1, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

After 25 years of work with the American GI Forum, I have seen first hand the hardships that many Hispanic veterans faced upon completing their military service. We have come too far to allow the more than 110,000 Hispanic men and women currently serving in our Armed Forces to suffer similar inequities, especially as they defend our land at home and abroad. Forcing our military personnel – and their families – to pay more for the pre-paid calling cards they rely on is simply wrong. Thus I urge the FCC not to increase the cost of using prepaid calling card services by placing new charges and fees on these cards.

The fact that so many in our Armed Forces use pre-paid cards to connect with family members is reason enough not to implement additional charges and fees on calling cards; but for Hispanic servicemen and women, the effect would be even more far-reaching. Nationally, over 40% of Hispanic homes rely on prepaid cards, as do half of the households with low-income. Raising the prices for using the cards could quite literally sever the only connection between some Hispanic families and their loved ones serving our country by making the cost of a phone call too expensive.

The FCC should be making it more – not less – affordable for our troops to speak with their families, particularly while military families are managing tight budgets. But new charges and fees for prepaid calling cards will make it much more difficult for our soldiers to stay connected as prices would rise by as much 20%.

I urge you to support our fighting men and women by refusing to impose new fees and new burdens on our troops. Please keep them connected to the people for whom they fight.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

From:

12/27/2004 13:20 #261 P.022/023

Sincerely



Greg Arcinletta
Past National Vice Commander
American GI Forum

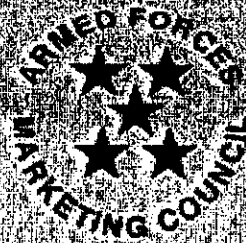
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Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adcistcin

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Armed Forces Marketing Council

301-C CHAMBRIDGE ROAD • FAIRFAX, VA 22039-3246

G.R. (RIP) ROWAN
President
Telephone: (703) 273-6580
Fax: (703) 273-6583

December 21, 2004

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JAN 10 2005

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ref: Docket No. 03-133
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

RE: Docket No. 03-133

JAN 10 2005

Dear Chairman Powell:

Federal Communications Commission
Bureau Office

On behalf of the Armed Forces Marketing Council, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to defeat proposed new regulations that would impose new charges on enhanced pre-paid calling cards, and in so doing, place an unjust burden on our service members and their families.

Our country is at war. Our military is deployed on the other side of the world, protecting us, and fighting for our freedom. Now is not the time or place for any phone company to demand increased access rates on pre-paid cards that are essentially the only means available to members of the Armed Forces to speak with their families. This proposal to require higher fees for pre-paid calling cards is unconscionable.

Ninety-five percent of military personnel use pre-paid calling cards which account for over a billion precious minutes of calls between our troops and their families and friends each year. In short, pre-paid calling cards are the life-line for our military men and women stationed abroad who depend on affordable means of communication with loved ones back home.

If there is one thing on which policy makers from every end of the political spectrum agree, it is the need to make life easier -- not more difficult -- for our military. It is in this regard that we hope you and the Commissioners will show common sense and heed the pleas of thousands of families that this plan will negatively impact, by denying any increase in access fees for pre-paid calling cards.

Sincerely,

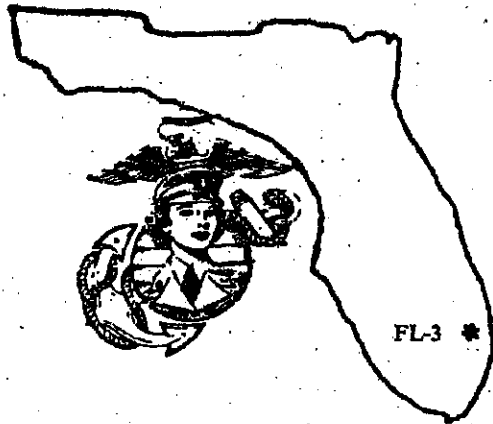
G.R. Rowan
G.R. Rowan
President

cc: Commissioner Kathleen G. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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The Women Marines Association**Gold Coast of Florida Chapter**

December 16, 2004

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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JAN 7 2005

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Re: Docket 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

It has come to our attention that the FCC is proposing a rate hike in the use of AT&T pre-paid calling cards to 20%.

This will effect thousands of service men and women who depend on these cards to keep in touch with their families while serving overseas.

And who is to say, that if this rate hike is passed, that a simliar or greater rate hike awaits in the future?

This is a bad time to instigate this hike, when our military is doing its best to serve our country in its fight for freedom around the globe.

Therefore, we of the Women Marines Association beseach you to reconsider your proposal and stop the 20% rate hike of the pre-paid calling cards.

Semper Fidelis,

Stephanie Suchomel
Stephanie Suchomel, Treasurer
Gold Coast of Florida Chapter FL-3
Woman Marines Association
2442 McKinley Street
Hollywood FL 33020

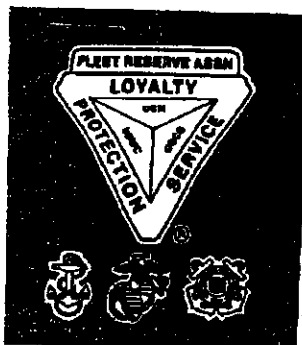
Phone: (954) 923-5161

cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kathleen G. Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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From:

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 12/27/2004 13:07 #261 P.007/023



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

Representing All Enlisted Personnel of the
U.S. NAVY ★ MARINE CORPS ★ U.S. COAST GUARD

125 N. West Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2754
(703) 683-1400 • (800) FRA-1924 • FAX (703) 549-6810

16 August 2004

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JAN 7 2005

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
FAX No. 202-418-2801

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

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JAN 10 2005

Dear Chairman Powell:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

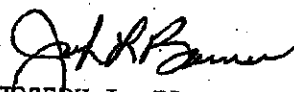
The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) notes with concern, a recent *Marine Corps Times* article regarding a proposed ruling before the Commission, which if adopted, would cause an increase in the cost of prepaid phone cards 'by as much as 20 percent.' It's inconceivable that such a recommendation would be considered in light of the significant number of prepaid phone cards purchased by and for our uniformed service members who are engaged in combat in Iraq and assigned to other duty in indigenous areas outside the United States.

Numerous U.S. citizens along with a number of charitable and veterans' organizations (including FRA branches) are purchasing and distributing prepaid phone cards for our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen. Many individuals, including members of this organization, are stretching their finances to do so and their support may be jeopardized if a higher levy is imposed on prepaid phone cards.

FRA implores the Commission to forego any ruling that would affect an increase in the costs of prepaid phone cards until U.S. military service members and civilian employees no longer face sustained daily combat and the threat of loss of life and limb.

With appreciation for considering this request, I am,

Sincerely,


JOSEPH L. BARNES
National Executive Secretary

JLB:cam:teg

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NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION

1619 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2793
 PHONE: 703.548.5800 • FAX: 703.543.3547

E-mail: admin@navyreserve.org • Home Page: www.navy-reserve.org

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JAN 10 2005

13 December 2004

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

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JAN - 7 2005

Federal Communication Commission
 Bureau / Office

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

Ref. Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the 22,000 members of the Naval Reserve Association, and in defense of the 76,000 personnel in the Naval Reserve and their families, I would like to express our deep concern regarding a recent proposal to impose new charges and access fees on pre-paid calling cards. It is our considered opinion that this would have a negative impact on our nation's military families and service members.

The pending proposal would impose new charges and access fees on pre-paid calling cards. If the new regulation to increase rates by 20 per cent per-minute is successful, it will place an unjust burden on our young men and women serving around the world. Sometimes these pre-paid calling cards are the only means of communication between our service members and their loved ones.

Hundreds of thousands of pre-paid calling cards to military personnel have been provided through various programs and by individuals. The VFW *Operations Uplink* is a notable program in this effort.

Because these pre-paid cards are the life-line between service member and family, we hope that the FCC would consider the seriously adverse impact an increase in access fees would have on the service member and their families during a time of war. We ask that you consider not allowing these increases to occur during these critical times of war.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Keith
 RADM, USNR (Ret)
 Executive Director

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1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22209-1198 (703) 247-5600
An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

DONALD L. PETERSON
Executive Director

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JAN 7 2005

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

November 16, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

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JAN 10 2005

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Air Force Association urges the Commission to defeat proposed new regulations that would impose higher charges and fees on pre-paid calling cards. This increase would place a financial burden on our nation's military men and women serving in the United States and around the world. Military members make great use of calling cards; for many of them, it is the only method at their disposal to keep in contact with their families.

In fact, ninety-five percent of military members use calling cards. Last year this accounted for over a billion minutes of calls home to families. The proposed increase would cut the usefulness of pre-paid minutes by 20%.

Pre-paid calling cards are an important lifeline for our military. Now is not the time to increase the costs when our military is serving in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and other locations around the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Peterson
Lt General, USAF (Ret)

DLP/KAG

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Air Force Sergeants Association

International Headquarters, P.O. Box 50, Temple Hills, MD 20757-0050 • Phone: (301) 898-3500

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December 22, 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell,

On behalf of the 130,000 members of this association and Air Force enlisted members serving around the world, we ask you to seriously resist a recent proposal to impose new charges and access fees on pre-paid calling cards. We have been informed that the proposal would amount to an estimated 20 percent hike in rates on such per-minute cards.

It is important to understand that these calling cards have become lifelines for those who are serving overseas. These cards serve as the link between the military member and home, and are directly related to the well-being and morale of servicemembers and their families. Remember, these Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are overseas because this nation has ordered them there to protect our national interests. It is unfair to penalize them.

Imposing the additional charges and fees would be especially onerous while we are fighting the War on Terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, and various other places around the world. The additional charges would be even more significant to the lower-ranking enlisted members whom this association represents.

~~We urge you to fully exercise the influence of your office to table these increased charges, realizing the adverse impact such an increase in fees could have on the morale of those who put their lives on the line to protect this nation.~~

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard M. Dean'.

RICHARD M. DEAN
Executive Director

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12/27/2004 10:01 P. 017/023

JAN 10 2005



Office of the Secretary of Defense

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

July 23, 2004

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JAN 7 2005

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW #8
Washington, DC 20554

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Office of the Secretary of Defense recently learned of a pending Federal Communications Commission proceeding on an AT&T petition for a declaratory ruling on prepaid calling card services, (WC Docket No. 03-133). Without expressing opinion on the outcome or the Commission's proceedings, I am concerned about, and want the Commission to be aware of, some issues regarding telecommunications costs for military personnel and their families.

AT&T provides unofficial telecommunications services to military personnel stationed around the world, including personnel serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. AT&T is the sole supplier of prepaid calling cards that are sold in the Armed Services exchanges and the cards are used exclusively in telephone centers on board ship and in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has long recognized the importance of communications with loved ones during deployments. There is special concern for military personnel who are supporting of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Many military families, already enduring the stress of separation, are struggling under the financial weight of the cost of telephone calls. To ease this burden, the Congress passed legislation (Section 344 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (P.L. 108-136)) authorizing the DoD to provide prepaid calling cards or other telecommunications support to deployed members up to \$40 per month. Should AT&T raise their prices for prepaid calling cards, this benefit would be eroded. We request that the impact on military personnel be considered in the Commission's proceedings.

If you require additional information about the military's use of prepaid calling cards, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-697-2121.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Abell
Principal Deputy

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AMERICAN MILITARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Protecting the benefits of all Military Retirees and Veterans!

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November 3, 2004

JAN 10 2005

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the SecretaryFederal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
RE: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein:

On behalf of the American Military Retiree Association (AMRA) and our more than 15,000 members, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to reject and defeat any proposed new regulations that would impose new charges and fees on enhanced pre-paid calling cards. This will place a new and unjust burden on our military's men and women and their families during this war time period and especially during holiday seasons.

It is estimated that 95% of our military personnel use pre-paid calling cards: these cards account for over 1 billion precious minutes of calls between our troops and their families and friends each and every year.

In short, pre-paid calling cards are the lifeline for our servicemen and women stationed abroad who depend on affordable means of communications back home. The FCC should not raise the cost of pre-paid calling cards at a time when our military is courageously serving in wartime around the globe. The effect of new regulations, if successful, would be an astounding hike in rates on our servicemen and women by nearly 20%.

I implore you, the FCC commissioners, to resist the internal bureaucratic impulses to re-regulate these vital services to the detriment of our brave military service personnel who are fighting daily for our freedom around the world. They deserve all the help we can give them.

Sincerely,

Bernard "Matt" Dillon
AMRA National President

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Cc: Commissioners: Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein

800.424.2969 ★ 518.563.9479 ★ Fax 518.324.5204
National Headquarters: 5436 Peru Street, #1, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

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NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION

6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189 • 703-534-1329 • FAX 703-534-3617

26 November 2004
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JAN 10 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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JAN - 7 2005

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Re: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners, all

Recently, this organization became aware of, what I would call a rip-off of not only the members of our Armed Forces but also the general public. We admonish our members that one of the best way to support our military is to send pre-paid calling cards. When we patronize our Exchanges, Commissaries and similar businesses in the private sector, we see signs noting that we can help our troops with the pre-paid calling cards.

This is the height of hypocrisy, on the one hand the RBOC's want to sell the cards and on the other they want to gouge the unsuspecting public. We don't care if the costs of the cards are raised or the amount of minutes is decreased, it amounts to the same scam.

We, in the Military Coalition, 5+ Million strong, have supported the pre-paid cards as they reduce the risk of higher service fees and the fees charged for cell phones, not to mention the possibly of losing one. If there is one thing that will keep our fighting men and women to keep going, it is communication with the home front. I don't believe I need to tell any of you that.

Lets keep this on a level playing field. If the public buys a pre-paid phone card for \$40.00, that's what the troop gets the advertised hours and the buyer is assured that what they pay for allots the correct minutes.

We feel that in this day of supporting our troops, for the RBOC's to be asking for this kind of increase or any increase is a dereliction of duty on their part and must be brought to the public's attention. We are not adverse to confronting AT&T, which we will if the Commission grants this increase. In fact, I know of several of several media outlets that would love the story. The ball is in your court don't disappoint us.

Sincerely,

David R. Davidson
David R Davidson
Executive Director

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Dedicated to the Enlisted Reservists of the Sea Services

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JAN 10 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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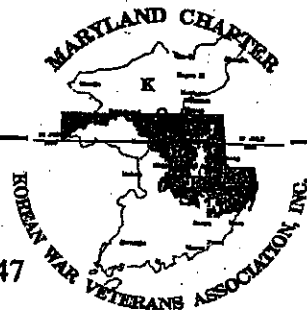
JAN - 7 2005

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

12/27/2004 13:18 #261 P.019/023

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MARYLAND CHAPTER
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.



Dec. 9, 2004

516 Millwood Dr.
Fallston, MD 21047

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein

We understand that the Regional Bell Operating Companies are requesting, from the FCC, the right to charge new fees, which, if successful, would increase the cost of pre-paid telephone calling cards up to 20%. Our concern is the impact this increase would have on the servicemen and servicewomen of this country wherever they may be posted. While all users of these cards will suffer should this proposal be approved, the impact will be felt by those who can least afford it. It may be that this 20% is a "trial balloon". In any event, we are adamantly opposed to this attempt by the Telecom industry to increase their revenues at the expense of those least likely to be able to pay.

Accordingly, we ask the FCC to deny this proposed rate increase. The servicemen and servicewomen, in particular, as well as the public in general, do not deserve to be treated in this manner.

Sincerely

Robert S. Banker
President
Maryland Chapter

CC: Mr. Jack Cloman, Secretary, KWVA

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From:

12/27/2004 13:17 #261 P.018/023



USO WORLD HEADQUARTERS
2111 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1200
Arlington, VA 22201

Phone (703) 908-8400
Fax (703) 908-8401
www.uso.org

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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JAN 17 2005

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

July 16, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Support for AT&T pre-paid calling card filing (Docket 03-133)

Dear Chairman Powell:

The USO (United Services Organization) is chartered by the Congress as a non-profit charitable corporation. It is endorsed by the President of the United States and the Department of Defense.

The USO's mission is to provide morale, welfare and recreation service to uniformed military Personnel. That's why the USO established "Operation Phone Home", our extremely successful project to provide free pre-paid calling cards to service members, 95% of who use pre-paid calling cards.

These pre-paid calling cards are a lifeline for many troops serving far away from their friends and families. That's why the USO, just as we did in August of 2003, strongly urges the FCC's support of AT&T's filing for declaratory judgment on enhanced calling card services.

If the FCC subjects these prepaid card calls to intrastate access charges and USF, the price consumers pay for these calls would increase by nearly 20%. New access charges would disrupt the success of "Operation Phone Home". It would directly interfere with the ability of military men and women to phone home from far away, because as costs rise to providers, they will quickly be passed along to consumers -- including men and women in uniform.

The FCC has an obligation to stop this from happening. Please support AT&T's petition on Docket 03-133.

Sincerely,


Edward A. Powell
President and Chief Executive Officer

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SANTA FE POST 2951

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

P.O. Box 225
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

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Federal Communication Commission
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

September 11, 2003

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, The Federal Communications Commission
443 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Reference: Support for AT&T pre-paid calling card filing (Docket
03-133)

Dear Chairman Powell:

VFW Post 2951, Santa Fe New Mexico would like to lend its support to the AT&T petition that seeks to prohibit state officials and local phone carriers from placing expensive new charges on pre-paid calling card calls.

Our concern is with the servicemen and women who are constantly being transferred to remote bases. These calling cards are a lifeline for many of them to stay in touch with family and friends. This, in turn helps boost morale.

It would be deeply unfair, at this crucial point, for expensive new access charges to be placed on these calls.

Most Sincerely,

William J. Coppola
Commander VFW Post 2951 - Santa Fe New Mexico

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Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

ONE MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • (202) 789-0031 • FAX (202) 682-9358

December 15, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

The National Guard Association of the United States has been made aware of an issue that will negatively affect our military servicemembers and their families. We need your assistance to prevent this from happening.

It is my understanding that a proposed regulation would impose new charges and fees on enhanced pre-paid calling cards. Our military men and women use calling cards to keep in contact with their families. They depend on this affordable means of communication with home. Increasing the rates may mean fewer precious minutes spent saying, "I love you," to a spouse, a child, or a parent. It is unconscionable to increase rates to those fighting and dying for our country, right now.

Please defeat the proposed new regulations that would impose new charges and fees on enhanced pre-paid calling cards. Our military members deserve no less.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Koper
Brigadier General (Ret.), USAF
President

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



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JAN 10 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

December 1, 2004

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JAN - 7 2005

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / OfficeMichael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of the Veterans Foreign Wars of the United States and our Auxiliaries, I would like to express our concern regarding a recent proposal that would have a significant impact on our military personnel and their families.

The proposal would impose new charges and access fees on pre-paid calling cards. The effect of this new regulation, if successful, would be an estimated 20% hike in rates on per-minute calling cards. If such a proposal is implemented, it will place an unjust burden on the thousands of young men and women in our military serving around the world who use the pre-paid calling cards to communicate with their loved ones back home.

The VFW through its *Operation Uplink* program has provided hundreds of thousands of pre-paid calling cards to military personnel throughout the world. We believe that these calling cards are the life-line for our service men and women stationed at home and abroad who depend on an affordable means of communication with their friends and family.

We hope that during this time of war-- when our military is courageously fighting for our freedoms -- the FCC would consider the adverse impact an increase in access fees would have on the price of communicating with loved ones.

Sincerely,


ROBERGE WALLACE
Executive Director

COPY

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★
VFW MEMORIAL BUILDING • 800 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002-5770
AREA CODE 202-543-2229 • FAX 202-543-2719

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**EANGUS**3133 MT. VERNON AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305

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www.eangus.org

(703) 519-3846
FAX (703) 519-3849**RECEIVED**

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**RECEIVED - FCC**

JAN 7 2005

Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

November 16, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554


Dear Chairman Powell:

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States has been made aware of an issue that will negatively affect our military servicemembers and their families. We need your assistance to prevent this from happening.

It is my understanding that a proposed regulation would impose new charges and fees on enhanced pre-paid calling cards. Our military men and women use calling cards to keep in contact with their families. They depend on this affordable means of communication with home. Increasing the rates may mean fewer precious minutes spent saying, "I love you," to a spouse, a child, or a parent. It is unconscionable to increase rates to those fighting and dying for our country, right now.

Please defeat the proposed new regulations that would impose new charges and fees on enhanced pre-paid calling cards. Our military members deserve no less.

Working for America's Best!


MSG (Ret) Michael P. Cline, AUS
Executive DirectorNo. of Copies rec'd 2
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**The
American
Legion**



For God and Country

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★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1505 K STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-2847 ★

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

(202) 881-2700 ★ FAX (202) 881-2728 ★

December 15, 2004

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communication Commission
Bureau / Office

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

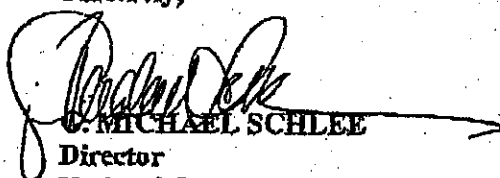
Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the 2.7 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express our concern regarding a recent proposal that would have a significant impact on our military personnel and their families.

The proposal would impose new charges and access fees on pre-paid calling cards. The effect of this new regulation, if successful, would be an estimated 20% hike in rates on per-minute calling cards. If such a proposal is implemented, it will place an unjust burden on the thousands of young men and women in our military serving around the world who uses the pre-paid calling cards to communicate with their loved ones back home.

We hope that during this time of war—when our military is courageously fighting for our freedoms—the FCC would consider the adverse impact an increase in access fees would have on the price of communicating with loved ones.

Sincerely,


C. MICHAEL SCHLEE

Director
National Security-Foreign
Relations Division

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REA RESERVE
ENLISTED
ASSOCIATION

November 17, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell --
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing on behalf of the Reserve Enlisted Association of the United States (REA) - a professional military association recently formed to represent enlisted reservists from all branches of the Armed Forces. REA is to be an advocate for the 750,000 enlisted men and women of the United States Military Reserve Components in support of National Security and Homeland Defense, with emphasis on the readiness, training, and quality of life issues affecting their welfare and that of their families and survivors.

Since 9/11 over 400,000 Guard and Reservists have been mobilized to participate in the Global War on Terror. Currently, there are approximately 180,000 Guard and Reserves on active duty defending this nation around the world and here at home. These brave men and women often rely on pre-paid phone cards to keep connected with their families. These precious minutes result in huge morale boosts for both the citizen-soldier and their loved-ones. This is why when we heard of possible new regulations that would impose surcharges on pre-paid phone cards we were so disturbed. The military is the number one consumer of pre-paid phone cards and therefore, will be the most affected by these unnecessary charges.

Congress and associations like the Reserve Enlisted Association have worked hard to find the money to adequately compensate the Guard and Reserve for their commitment. The American taxpayer is supporting the best trained, best equipped and the best personnel the world has ever seen. They have not committed so much to see an almost twenty-percent (20%) increase in phone card rates wipe out many gains in pay and benefits.

If it true that the FCC is considering such a move the REA would like to request an explanation concerning its necessity and impact on servicemen and women deployed overseas. Without a very compelling case for such charges we would urge the Commissioners to decide against these increases. Please feel free to call me at 202-646-7758 or via email at lburnett@reus.org or our Legislative Director, Seth Benge at 202-646-7714.

Sincerely,

Lani Burnett
Chief Master Sergeant, USAFR (Retired)
Executive Director

CC: Andrew K. Card Jr., Chief of Staff to the President

One Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington DC, 20002

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